

DATE: May 25, 1973

TO : Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.

FROM : Daniel D. Federman, M.D.

SUBJECT:

Dear Josh:

I am not really clear about your timetable for submission of the proposal for a Genetics Research Center, but I thought I would make explicit several areas of potential involvement of the Department of Medicine.

1. Pharmacogenetics - We have a slot in Clinical Pharmacology for a new Assistant Professor. Stan Cohen and I have discussed finding someone with a particular interest in the area of pharmacogenetics, but at the present time, no particular individual has been chosen.
2. Endocrinology -
 - A. Hormonal control of gene expression. We will have at least one new person in the Endocrine Division in the next year and have placed as our first interest finding someone working in the area of the effective hormone on the expression of genetic information. This would provide an obvious link to a genetic center.
3. Early detection of hereditary endocrine disease. There are at least 80 endocrinopathies which show Mendelian segregation and a number more which probably have a major genetic control. Early detection of asymptomatic patients can be achieved by suitable provocative testing. This opens the way to family studies in which
 - a) the hereditary mechanism can be defined, b) preventive or therapeutic intervention can be tried before irreversible damage has occurred, and
 - c) the effects that intervention can be compared to the natural history of the disorder. The latter approach has important application to the management of "patients" discovered by multiphasic screening techniques.
4. Immunogenetics - This area of course is strongly represented in our Department and we could, I believe, contribute significantly to the activities of the genetic center in this area.

I should have liked to provide more specific information, but until particular people have been identified, it would be difficult to do so. I hope this is of some help -- I am certainly anxious for an active collaboration.

Sincerely,

D.F.

Dictated but not signed.